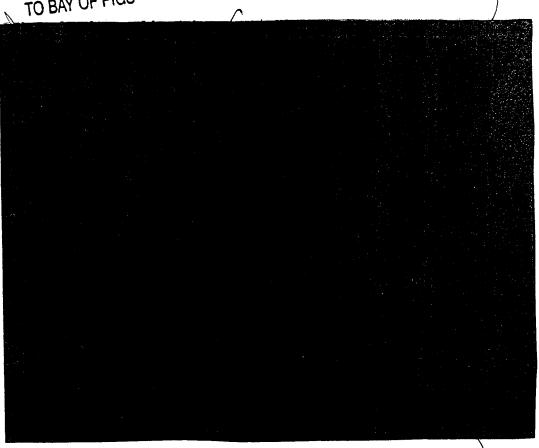
CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY REVIEW

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4 February 1960



CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM RELEASE AS SANITIZED 1997

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENTS

Cuba

Mikoyan's presence in Havana to inaugurate the USSR's technical, scientific, and cultural exhibition on 6 February will give impetus to increased Cuban-Soviet relations in several fields. He and the various Russian technicians and artists

who will visit Cuba during the exhibition will probably be more enthusiastically received than they were in Mexico, since many Cubans support Castro's campaign—one gesture of defiance of the United States—to strengthen relations with neutral and bloc countries.

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PART II

NOTES AND COMMENTS

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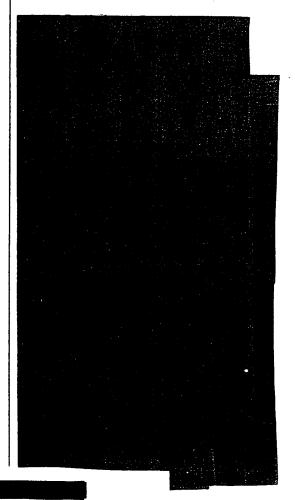
The Mikoyan visit, according to reliable sources, will open the way for Havana's resumption of diplomatic relations with Moscow, broken in 1952. TASS has recently given some play to Foreign Minister Raul Roa's statement that Cuba plans "to establish diplomatic relations with all countries, including the Soviet Union," and a permanent TASS correspondent has just been accredited by the Cuban Government.

The heavy representation of trade specialists in Mikoyan's party suggests that he will also press for expanding economic contacts. He will probably conclude a formal agreement for Soviet credits. One projected credit of \$5,000.-000-\$6,000,000 to finance purchases of Soviet agricultural machinery has already been reported. Soviet purchases of Cuban sugar in 1959 amounted to 500,000 tons, approximating the peak purchases from the Batista regime. In recent months there have been numerous as-yet-unconfirmed reports that the USSR and other Soviet bloc countries have offered Castro large barter deals, some involving Cuban minerals as well as sugar, and credits for equipment badly needed for Castro's reform programs.

Inside Cuba, the numerous militias formed among labor, student, and other groups—on Castro's exhortation but at the original suggestion of the Cuban Communist party—have been more tightly organized under control of Minister of the Armed Forces Raul Castro and of Che Guevara, who remains head of instruction for the armed forces. Raul Castro also exercises increasingly decisive authority over Cuban economic

life through Minister of Labor Martinez, who controls employment and is empowered to intervene in business management almost at will.

Several leaders in other Latin American countries, including Argentina, Peru, Chile, and Costa Rica have indicated their approval of the US attitude toward Castro expressed in President Eisenhower's speech of 26 January. Growing official Latin American coolness toward Castro may intensify his overtures toward Asian, African, and Communist bloc countries.



PART I

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